

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims currently pending in the present Application.

With the current Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim to foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner also provides a signed and initialed copy of the modified Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of August 10, 2005.

Amendments

With the present Amendment, Applicants amend the specification for purposes of clarity. Applicants submit that these amendments are not related to patentability over the prior art, but are useful in clarifying the invention.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, and 17 are amended. These amendments are fully supported by the originally-filed specification.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 8, 9, 13, and 16 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Applicants respectfully request that the rewriting of these claims be held in abeyance at this time.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 14, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly unpatentable over George (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0195931). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that the claims are clearly patentable over the cited art.

First, Applicants note that George fails to disclose or suggest an electrode layer conforming to protrusions in the light-emitting layer. Specifically, the electrode layer 102 (ITO layer) and 204(aluminum foil) of George are always shown as flat (see Figure 4). Further, George is silent with respect to “a light emitting layer having a top surface and a bottom surface, and phosphor particles causing protrusions in the top and bottom surfaces of the light emitting layer.” Applicants refer to Figures 2C, 4, and 12 of George, where phosphor particles only protrude from one side of the light-emitting layer. These figures are wholly consistent with the teachings of the specification of George. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that George fails to anticipate claim 1 and that claims 2-6 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that the method of constructing an electroluminescent light emitting device disclosed in George does not cause “the phosphor particles from the light emitting layer to protrude into the insulating layer and the transparent electrode layer.” The phosphor particles shown in Figures 2C, 4, and 12 do not protrude from the light emitting layer on both sides and cannot therefore have the feature of claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that George fails to anticipate claim 7 and that claims 10-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 7.

Regarding claims 14 and 17, Applicants have amended these claims to clarify that the protrusions in the light emitting layer occur on both sides of the light emitting layer. George, as discussed above, fails to disclose or suggest this arrangement or method. Further, the method of applying the laminates in the George reference would make such an arrangement difficult to

achieve. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that George fails to anticipate claims 14 and 17, and that claim 15 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependence on claim 16.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-7, 10-12, 14, 15, and 17 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 29, 2006